

to emphasise his point, is apt at times to state his case too strongly.

We cannot by taking thought dispel disease; the influence of the patient's mind over his body is powerful, but is it "almost all-powerful"? The consumptive patient is usually full of hopefulness to the last, but unless other means are taken to promote recovery his light-heartedness is of little avail. The writer later greatly modifies his original statement regarding the influence of mind over body by stating (p. 29) that "there are many diseases not cured by the mind alone"; in fact, he might add that quite a few maladies can be so treated. Nevertheless, we agree with the statement that "in every case of disease the condition of the mind is an important factor."

We cannot concur with the writer's distinction between "madness" and "hysteria" (p. 21). Hysteria is a disease with definite physical symptoms, and, in addition, the patient exhibits some mental aberration. Now if this mental disturbance becomes more marked, the patient is usually considered to have passed from the realm of physical disease into a state commonly spoken of as "madness," and yet the disease is the same in both cases, only in one instance the physical symptoms are the more prominent and in the other the psychical. Dr. Schofield writes that "a person whose conscious mind is unsound is suffering from madness: one whose unconscious mind alone has gone astray suffers from neuromimesis or hysteria; and the distinction is good." Now a few pages previously the writer tells us that "there is but one mind." Clearly, then, the mind is either sound or unsound, for the whole cannot be what a part of it is not. Further, we are told that "the recovery of the patient from disease depends more upon the efficiency of the *vis medicatrix naturae*, in other words, unconscious mind, than upon any other agent." Therefore it would appear that in hysteria the apparatus which is all-powerful in cure is itself diseased; thus if this statement is true it is a factor which must greatly influence the prospect of recovery.

Dr. Schofield speaks in no uncertain manner concerning the tendency of some persons of the present day to mix up a "very exaggerated psycho-therapy with a pseudo-Christianity." We entirely agree with his remarks, and consider that he has stated the case none too strongly. In the chapter entitled "The Diagnosis," we would specially commend to the student the advice the writer gives of the "importance of cultivating tact." There is probably no attribute of greater value to a physician, and no opportunity should be lost for developing it. The writer makes some very sound remarks concerning the personality of the "doctor." Some persons may consider that too much detail is given, and that some advice is almost too trivial to be recorded; but with this view we should disagree, for undoubtedly the strength of this book lies in the attention which is bestowed on detail.

This book supplies a want, and certainly deserves a place on the bookshelf of the young physician.

NO. 1922, VOL. 74]

# OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Traité d'Exploitation commerciale des Bois.* By A. Mathey. Tome i. Pp. xviii+488. (Paris: Lucien Lavens, 1906.) Price 15 francs.

THIS volume will rank high among the many excellent Continental books which deal with forest utilisation. The author gives a great amount of important and practical information concerning the commercial exploitation of timber from every possible point of view. The work is profusely illustrated by well drawn and excellently reproduced figures, numbering no fewer than 377, and to these must be added eight beautiful chromo-lithographic plates. The volume is divided into five parts.

Part i. deals with the general properties of wood. The anatomical features are also described. The macroscopic characteristics of the various home and exotic deciduous and coniferous species are gone into, and the diagnostic features are brought out very clearly by an excellent series of figures, which show specimen blocks of the various woods cut in transverse and longitudinal sections. The numerous chemical and physical properties of timber are treated in detail. This part finishes with an excellent account of the effect of soil and climate on the growth and texture of the wood.

Part ii. deals principally with defects in timber, such as abnormality of growth, knots and wounds of all kinds, which may be caused by physical agencies. The different kinds of rot arising from the attack of fungi are exhaustively dealt with. This part is extremely well illustrated by means of the coloured plates already referred to, which should greatly facilitate the recognition of these maladies that are only too frequently ignored in this country. The various forms of white and red rot being due to specific organisms greatly increases the danger of sound timber being contaminated by diseased timber; hence the importance of recognising those diseases in order, if possible, to prevent their future occurrence and spread.

Part iii. of the work deals fully with the important subject of seasoning and storing timber, and the different artificial methods of rendering wood antiseptic by means of immersion in, and injection with, the various kinds of preservatives. The artificial methods of seasoning and preserving timber are now receiving considerable attention as the price of wood increases and the supply diminishes, so that this part of the book should be of the greatest interest to all concerned in the production and use of wood.

In part iv. the felling and conversion of timber is adequately considered. The different instruments used are also fully described and figured. In the last part is given an exhaustive account of almost every possible means of timber carriage and transport. On the whole, the author is to be congratulated on the production of this excellent work.

*Illustrations of British Blood-sucking Flies.* With Notes by Ernest Edward Austen, Assistant, Department of Zoology, British Museum (N.H.). Pp. 74; 34 plates. (Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1906.) Price 25s.

GNATS and other blood-sucking flies have always been a great pest in most countries, but it is only within the last few years that their active agency in the dissemination of many of the most serious diseases which afflict both men and the higher animals has been fully recognised. In England, however, modern drainage and sanitary regulations have so far diminished their numbers that whenever gnats are exceptionally troublesome many people jump to the conclusion that there has been an invasion of "mos-

quitoes" (not knowing that the terms gnats and mosquitoes are applied indiscriminately to any biting species of Culicidæ), and, what is more important, the gnats belonging to the genus *Anopheles*, though far from extinct in England, have ceased to disseminate ague as formerly.

Mr. Austen informs us that there are practically only six families of blood-sucking flies in England, Chironomidæ (midges), Culicidæ (gnats or mosquitoes), Simuliidæ, Tabanidæ (horse-flies), Muscidæ, and Hippoboscidæ. In Chironomidæ and Muscidæ the habit is exceptional, occurring in a few species only, and, except in the Muscidæ (and perhaps the Hippoboscidæ), the habit is confined to the females. Mosquitoes, however, are also capable of subsisting on the juices of plants.

The illustrations in the present work are considerably enlarged, and with few exceptions represent only females. The originals have been prepared for exhibition in the north hall of the Natural History Museum. The letterpress consists of a brief general account of each family, and a notice of the chief characteristics, habits, and localities of the various species figured, technical descriptions, however, being omitted. Little has been done in England to popularise the study of Diptera, and there are very few illustrations of the species; so we welcome this excellently arranged and illustrated book as a useful contribution to our knowledge of the British Diptera.

W. F. K.

*Gehirn und Rückenmark. Leitfaden für das Studium der Morphologie und des Faserverlaufs.* By Dr. Emil Villiger. Pp. vii + 187; illustrated. (Leipzig: W. Engelmann, 1905.) Price 9 marks.

THERE is no department of medical science in which greater advances have been made within the last twenty-five years than in that of diseases of the central nervous system. This is mainly a result of increasing precision in our knowledge of the complicated labyrinth of the various groups of nerve-cells and nerve-fibres which compose the essential mechanism of the nervous system. The complexity of the subject renders it a task of some difficulty to the medical student, whether he be undergraduate or post-graduate, who is desirous of acquiring that thorough grasp of nervous anatomy on which the successful solution of diagnostic problems must of necessity depend. To such students as are able to read German we can cordially recommend Dr. Villiger's book. Within the compass of 177 pages the author discusses in lucid style the main facts of the morphology of the brain and spinal cord, and describes all the more important tracts of nerve-fibres. An excellent series of illustrations, many of them original, illuminate the text, whilst we are glad to observe that the author evidently describes the gross anatomy as if demonstrating the actual brain, using the diagrams as accessories. In this way the practical value of the book is undoubtedly enhanced.

Commencing with an account of the embryological development of the nervous system, the author proceeds to discuss in detail the naked-eye anatomy of the brain and spinal cord, with their surrounding membranes. An interesting historical account is given of the successive stages in the methods of neuro-histology, but we are surprised to find no reference to Marchi's well-known osmic acid method of staining recently-degenerated nerve-fibres, a method which since its introduction more than ten years ago has done more than any other to clear up our knowledge of nerve-tracts. Nor is any reference made to the still more recent methods of Cajal and of

Bielschowsky for the staining of neurofibrils. Doubtless these omissions will be rectified in a future edition.

An excellent description is given of the microscopic characters of the various regions of the cerebral cortex, the basal ganglia, the cerebellum, pons, medulla, and spinal cord. The cranial nerves are discussed with remarkable clearness, the diagrams illustrating this part of the book being particularly good. Finally, there is a concise account of the main sensory, motor, and association systems of fibres in the central nervous organ. The book is well indexed.

Dr. Villiger is to be congratulated on having produced an excellent book. Not only does it amply fulfil its avowed scope of serving as an introductory guide to the student, but it will be read with pleasure and profit by many neurologists.

*Naturkonstanten in alphabetischer Anordnung.* By Prof. Dr. H. Erdmann and Dr. P. Köthner. Pp. 192. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1905.) Price 6 marks.

This handy little work is a book of constants intended for the use of chemists and physicists. It differs from others of its kind chiefly in the fact that the information in it is arranged alphabetically, with a marginal thumb index for rapid reference.

The work of the compilers has on the whole been very well done. Only one value of each constant is given, and usually no reference is made to the source or author. The work of the last ten years has, however, been incorporated to a much greater extent than is usual in books of this kind, and even data only published during the past twelve months are included. The plan adopted by the compilers should conduce to a considerable saving of time in looking up information. We think the book should be of especial value to chemists, as the data necessary in quantitative analysis are dealt with in a specially complete manner. There are also tables giving for each element and its most important compounds the atomic or molecular weight, density, melting point, boiling point, thermochemical constants, &c., together with a five-figure logarithm table for computation purposes. Details as to the most important spectroscopic features of each substance are given in a very handy form, the conditions as to the particular spectrum being clearly specified. Another very useful table containing data not often easily accessible is that of the electrochemical equivalents of the metals.

It is difficult in the time possible for a reviewer to spend on a book of this kind to detect many of the errors nearly inevitable in a first edition. The plan adopted by the writer has been to put the work for a while on his reference shelf, and turn to it frequently when looking up constants, verifying from other sources the data thus obtained.

Obvious slips are the value of  $\frac{1}{4}\pi$ , given on p. 114 ten times too small, the E.M.F. of the Clark cell, given on p. 40 as 0.60735 volt, and several misprints among the tables of English weights and measures, where the gallon is included under measures of surface.

Other inaccuracies are the value for the melting point of palladium, given as 1950° C. instead of 1525° C.  $\pm 25$ , of nickel, given as 1500° C. instead of 1427° C., and of wrought iron, given as 1600° C. instead of 1500° C.

One rather unfortunate tendency of the work is to deal in a multiplicity of units. There is, for example, no need to speak of "hektowatts," and it is certain that some of the subdivisions of the millimetre dealt with in the chapter on units are only confusing and rarely met with in practical work. Then, also, the units other than metric given in the book as at pre-